S-40 Almodington Oriole vicinity private

c. 1750

"Almodington" stands out as one of the most elaborate plantation houses erected in Somerset County during the mid eighteenth century. Four brick walls exhibit the finest in masonry craftsmanship with a carefully executed glazed header checkerboard pattern on the south side and gauged brick jack arches over the first and second floor windows. The window and door openings on the north side are topped by an unusual segmental arch design of alternating glazed rollocks and unglazed soldier bricks. The plastered cove cornices that finish the front and rear eaves are only found on a handful of contemporary houses. Inside, the first floor was originally fitted with the best carpentry available at the time. Due to the high quality of design and execution, the west parlor raised paneling was removed from the house and inserted in the Metropolitain Museum of Art as a backdrop for mid eighteenth-century furniture. A pair of shell carved cupboards flanked a raised panel hearth wall, and floor to ceiling raised paneling covered the other three walls. Even though the parlor woodwork was removed, the stair hall and east room survive with mid eighteenth-century finishes. A series of turned balusters and turned posts support a molded and ramped handrail. The elaborate railing encircles the stairwell on the second floor. A raised panel partition and raised panel window reveals distinguish the east room. The Federal style mantel was evidently added at a later date. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story, oneroom plan Flemish bond wing apparently added around 1790-1798.

The original 1000-acre tract of "Almodington," known to the Indians as

"Portoback," was officially surveyed for John Elzey on November 10, 1663.

Elzey, however, was living in the area as early as 1661 for he was named one of the three commissioners to grant warrants for land and to administer the oath of allegiance to the first settlers. Elzey did not live long after his arrival for it was recorded in Somerset Court that John Elzey died at Manokin and was buried on his plantation in 1664. "Almodington" passed to John Elzey's two sons, Arnold and John, Jr., but John, Jr. was dead by 1667, so Arnold became the sole owner. Arnold Elzey's plantation was platted on June 8, 1720, as a result of judicial proceedings concerning the property. As drawn, the "Almodington" tract encompassed 1083 acres and was bordered by the Manokin River on the south, Goose Creek on the east and St. Peter's Creek to the west. Arnold Elzey lived until 1733, and he bequeathed to his daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, the land south of his dwelling house on the Manokin (EB 9/153). His son, John Elzey received everything else.

Despite the established tradition that the "Almodington" house was erected by Arnold Elzey, architectural evidence suggests that Arnold's son, John, financed the construction during the decades following his father's death in 1733. It is entirely likely that John built his ambitious two-story brick house on the site of his father's dwelling, the location of which is designated on the 1720 plat.

John Elzey died in 1777, and his Manokin River plantation passed to his son, Arnold. Oddly, Arnold Elzey died the same year as his father, and Arnold's heirs granted "Almodington" to his brother, William, with the understanding that the estate was for William's use, but that he did not have the right to

sell any part of the plantation (C/316). The 1783 tax assessment listed the "Almodington" plantation under Arnold Elzey's name in spite of his former death. Located on the property was, "I Brick Dwelling House, two stories high, midling good repair, kitchen barns and improvements, sorry." Containing 1242 acres and nineteen slaves, "Almodington" was assessed at £3513.

Due to the subsequent death of William, the plantation was inherited by Sarah Elzey Jones, wife of Major William Jones, who was assessed for the 1200-acre plantation in 1798. The description suggests apparent changes to the house since 1783.

I Dwelling House 52 by 22 feet brick two story high 6 windows 5 feet 6 inches long 3 feet wide, I window 5 feet 8 inches long 2 feet 4 inches wide, 7 windows 5 feet 6 inches long 3 feet wide, I window 6 feet long 2 feet 4 inches wide, addition to Dwelling House 26 by 20 feet brick two story 5 windows 5 feet 8 inches long 2 feet 4 inches wide, 6 windows 4 feet 10 inches long 2 feet 4 inches wide, 2 windows 2 feet long 22 inches wide, I Cook House 24 by 22 feet wood, two story, 4 windows 4 feet 10 inches long 2 feet 4 inches wide, 4 windows 3 feet 8 inches long 2 feet 4 inches wide, I window 2 feet long 22 inches wide, Colonade (sic) 25 by 12, 4 windows 4 feet square, I Milk House 12 feet square, I Lumber House, 22 by 20, I Stable 28 by 24, I Carriage House 20 by 16 feet, I Necessary 8 feet square.

Architectural evidence along with the assessment descriptions convincingly suggest the rear two-story ell addition was added between 1783 and 1798, and the colonnade was erected at the same time between the house and the detached two-story, frame kitchen. Also included on the plantation were three additional houses (evidently for overseers or tenant farmers); one granary; four barns; two large corn houses (one measuring 40 by 10); and three quarters, built with larger than normal dimensions (averaging 30 by 20), which points to a multiple

family or dormitory arrangement for William Jones' eighty slaves.

Before his death Major William Jones partitioned his vast holdings between three principal heirs (GH 3/179). To Sally E. Jones (wife of John C. Wilson, Jr. of Westover Plantation) he bequeathed his dwelling plantation; for Arnold Elzey Jones he confirmed inheritance of property that Arnold had evidently occupied since 1818 (see Elmwood, S-41); and finally to Elizabeth A.W. Jones Waters he left a third tract, later known as "Homewood" (S-39).

As the wife of John C. Wilson, Jr. of Westover Plantation, Sally E. Jones Wilson sold "Almodington" to her step-sister, Margaret Nichols, who sold it six years later to Isaac Atkinson (LW 2/414). With the death of Anne W. Jones at Elmwood, Isaac Atkinson purchased original "Almodington" acreage from the Elmwood estate trustee, Levin L. Waters (BFL 1/607).

Levin L. Waters was appointed trustee sixteen years later when he dissolved the estate of Isaac S. Atkinson. On December 17, 1895, Waters sold Almodington to Elizabeth and Lena Woolford, who owned the property for close to nine years. Lois Aldrich and others purchased the farm from Elizabeth E. Woolford (OTB 39/470), and the Aldrichs retained possession of the farm for the next quarter century. Following the Aldrichs were several owners until John and Mary Honnecker purchased 222 acres and the house in April of 1952 (BLB 157/135). The Honneckers added the modern kitchen wing. The current owners bought the farm in March of 1980 (320/782).

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 2000402235

DOE __yes __no

1. Nam	le (indicate p	oreferred name)		
historic ALMODI	INGTON			
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	End of farm lane	that intersects Loca	s ∤ Point Road	not for publication
clty, town Orio	le	_ <u>X</u> vicinity of	congressional district	First
state Mary1	and	county	Somerset	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not applicable		Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	erty (give names an	d mailing address	es of <u>all</u> owners)
name Preedor	and Horma Amswor	th		
street & number	Beckford		telephone n	10.:
	ncess Anne			21853
5. Loca	tion of Leg	al Descriptio	n	
courthouse, regis	try of deeds, etc. Some	rset Co. Clark of Cou	rt	liber 320
treet & number	Somerset County Co	ourthouse		folio
elty, town Princ	ess Anne		state 1	id. 21853
6. Repr	esentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	
tle Maryland	Historical Sites I	Inventory		
ate 1937			federalX stat	e county local
epository for sur	vey records Maryland	Historical Trust		
ity, town $\mathbb{A}^{\mathrm{Ann}}_{\mathbf{n}}$	apolis		state	Md. 21401

7. Description Condition Check one Check one Survey No. S-40 Check one X original site

Condition excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaltered	_\frac{\text{X}}{} original s	site date of move	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Almodington description

Almodington stands on the north side of the Manokin River at the end of a long farm lane that intersects Locust Point Road near Oriole, Somerset County, Maxyland. The Two-story, five-bay mid eighteenth-century brick house faces south with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

The two-story center hall, single-pole brick dwelling is supported by a Flemish bond brick foundation marked by a simple watertable. The brick walls are covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof finished with plastered cove cornices and flush gable ends. Attached to the back of the house is a late eighteenth-century ell addition, and extending eastward is a mid twentieth-century brick service wing. Accompanying the house is a frame outbuilding, a garage and a brick caretaker's house.

The symmetrical two-story, five-bay facade is highlighted by carefully crafted glazed header checkerboard patten. Dividing the two floors is a three-course beltcourse. The center entrance is framed by classical surround consisting of Ionic pilasters, a cushion frieze, and a modillioned cornice. Flanking the door opening are two sixteen over sixteen sash windows that are topped by flared brick jack arches of gauged brick. The origanal mortar joints between the arch brick is extremely thin. The first floor windows are flanked by three-panel shutters. Lighting the second floor are five evenly spaced twelve over twelve sash windows capped by rubbed brick jack arches. The bricks to each side of the window openings were laid with plain red brick in an effort to highlight the windows. One iron tie rod with a star-shaped seat is located between the second and third window from the west.

Aside from two three-course beltcourse that mark the second and attic floor levels, the west gable end is a plain Flemish bond brick wall with an interior end brick chimney with a corbelled cap. The attic level beltcourse ends before reaching the front and rear walls, and it is finished with a concave curve that is repeated with the cove cornice.

The north (back) wall of the house is partially covered by the two-story rear ell. The north wall of the main block has an asymmetrical fenestration with a central door and two sixteen over sixteen sash to the right of the doorway. The window and door openings are topped by segumental arches of alternating glazed rollacks and unglazed soldier bricks. A mid-level sixteen over twelve sash window interrupts the beltcourse and lights the stair landing. The two second floor twelve over twelve sash windows are topped by single-course segmental arches fo alternating glazed rollocks. An unusal survival on the back of the house is the molded brownstone stoop.

The late eighteenth-century two-story Flemish bond rear wing is two bays across by two bays deep. The nine over nine sash on the first floor and the nine over six sash on the second floor are topped by segmental brick arches, and the first floor windows have three-panel shutters. As in the main block the addition eave follows the coved cornice.

0. 3	ngillicalice		Survey No. 5-	.40
. 1400 . 1500 	1599 agriculture 1699 architecture 1799 art 1899 commerce	theck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen industry invention	law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific	dates	Builder/Architect		
check:	Applicable Criteria:A and/or Applicable Exception:A		EFG	
	Level of Significance:	_nationalstate	_local	
Prepare	both a summary paragraph of	of significance and	a general statement o	f history and

support.

SIGNAFICANCE

Almodington stands out as one of the most elaborate plantation houses erected in Somerset County during the mid eighteenth century. Its four brick walls erhibit the finest in brick craftsmanship with a carefully executed glazed header checkerboard pattern on the south side and gauged brick jack arches over the first and second floor windows. The window and door openings on the north side are topped by a unusual segmental arch design of alternating glazed rollocks and unglaced soldier bricks. The cove cornices which finish the front and back eaves are only found on a few Somerset houses. Inside, the first floor was originally fitted with the best carpentry available at the time. As a result, the most elaborate paneling of the west room was removed from the house and installed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's American wing as an exemplary Georgian style interior with floor to ceiling raised paneling and shell-carved cupboards which flank the fluted pilasters on either side of the raised panel hearth. Even though the original woodwork was removed from the west room, the stair hall and east room survive with mid eighteenth-century finishes. The turned baluster stair and the raised panel partition in the east room are two of the most significant features. The east room also has splayed and paneled window reveals. The Federal mantal was added during the late eighteenth or early nineteenthe century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The original 1000-acre tract of "Almodington," known to the Indians as "Portoback," was officially surveyed for John Elzey on November 10,1663. Elzey, however, was living in the area as early as 1661 for he was named one of the three commissioners to grant warrants for land and to administer the oath of allegiance to the first settlers. Elzey did not live long after his initial arrived for it was recorded in Somerset Court that John Elzey died at Manokin and was buried on his plantation ϕ in 1864. "Almodington" passed to John Elzey's two sons, Arnold and John, Jr., but John Jr. was dead by 1867, so Arnold became the sole owner. Arnold Elbey's plantation was platted on June 8, 1720, as a result of judicial proceeding concerning the property. As drawn, the "Almodington" tract encompassed 1083 acres and was bordered by the Manokin River on the south, Goose Creek on the east and St. Peter's Creek to the west. Arnold Elzey lived until 1723 and bequeathed to his daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, the land south of Chis duelling house on the Manckin (EB 9/153). His son , John Elzey received everything else. Continued

10. Geogra	aphical Data		
Quadrangle name	roperty NOT complete UTM referen	ces	Quadrangle scale
A Easting	Northing	B Zone	Easting Northing
C		D	
Verbal boundary des	cription and justification		
List all states and co	unties for properties overlap	ping state or o	county boundaries
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form I	Prepared By		
name/title			
organization		1	date
street & number			telephone
city or town			state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

The north gable end of the wing is similarly finished with the same sash windows flanking the interior end brick stack, and two small two over two sash light the attic. The brick chimney is finished with a corbelled cap.

The east side of the kitchen wing follows along the same pattern as the west side with the exception of a door that pierces the north bay of the first floor. The east end of the main block is largely covered by the mid twentieth century kitchen addition. A small window pierces the upper floor.

The mid twentieth century story-and-a-half kitchen wing was erected in Flemish bond with a dormered second floor. A slightly shorter hyphen connects the main house and the kitchen.

The interior of the main house is divided into three rooms; one room to either side of a wide center hall. The paneling in the west room was removed in the early twentieth century and installed in the Americal wing of the Metropolitan Museum. In its place similarly styled paneling was crafted to resemble the original woodwork.

The center stair, on the other hand dates from the mid eighteenth century. The half-turn stair is distinguished by a ramped and molded handrail that ends at its base with J-curve. A cluster of four turned balusters serve as the main nevel post, and three turned balusters rise from each tread. The stringer is decorated with bold S-curve brackets, and the surface below the stringer is divided by three raised panels. The molded handrail ramps before reaching the landing post. The same turned baluster handrail skirts the second floor stairwell.

The east first floor room has a raised panel chimney breast to which a fancy Federal period mantel has been attached. The five-part frieze and the paneled pilasters are enriched with applied classical swags and medallions. The mantel shelf has a dentiled grown molding and a gougework bed molding. The overmantel is divided by three large vertical raised panels. In addition, the window reveals are paneled. Stretching across the back of the room is a partition of floor to ceiling raised paneling which separates this room from a rear passage that connects the center hall withe east and north wings. The partition has molded chair rail that separates squarish raised panels below from large rectangular ones above. A centrall located door is framed by a molded surround.

The second floor of the main block is divided into two bedrooms which flank the generous central passage. The west bedroom, the larger of the two rooms, has a raised panel chimney breast and a crossetted hearth surround. A molded mantel shelf marks the space between the hearth surround and the overmantel paneling. Molded chair rail extends between the chimney breast and the two end wall closets. The room is also fitted with molded baseboard, and a Federal period door with flush panels and a coat of mahogany graining.

The interior of the late eighteenth-century wing is finished with plaster walls, molded baseboards, and period mantels. The mid twentieth-century addition was built as a modern kitchen.

Despite the established tradition that the present house on the "Almodington" tract was erected by Arnold Elzey, architectural evidence suggests that Arnold's son, John, erected the extent house during the decades after his father's death. It is entirely likely that John built his ambitious two-story brick house on the site of his father's dwelling, the location of which is designated on the 1720 plat.

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Architectural evidence along with the assessment descriptions convincingly suggest the rear two-story ell addition was added between 1783 and 1798, and the colonnade was erected at the same time between the house and the detached kitchen. Also included on the plantation were three additional houses (evidently for overseers or tenant farmers), one granary, four barns, two large corn houses (one measuring 40 by 10), and three quaters, built with larger than normal dimensions (averaging 30 by 20), which points to a multiple family or dormitory arrangement for William Jones' eighty slaves.

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S-40

1. STATE Maryland
county Somerset County
townManokin R. VICINITY Oriole
STREET NO.

original owner Elzey Family
original use Dwelling
present owner
present use Dwelling
wall construction Flemish Bond Brick
no. of stories 2½

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY

2. NAMEAlmodington

DATE OR PERIOD 1700 - 1740 STYLE Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

This is a large brick house of the early colonial period. It was built about 1700 and has a brick kitchen wing at the rear which dates from 1740.

Five bays wide and two bays deep, it has a very steeply pitched "A" roof. The house is of Flemish bond brick and all the headers are glazed a deep blue. Simple square protruding bricks form a water table. The first floor windows are sixteen over sixteen, the second are twelve over twelve. All of the windows on the front of the house have flat arches of rubbed brick, while those on the rear have segmented arches of alternating bands of glazed headers and plain stretchers. The central door of the house has a simple Georgian portico of Ionic pilasters holding up a flat dentilled cornice. There are no windows on the ends of the house. A three string belt course runs around the house between the first and second story level and on the ends between the second story and gable level. A large sixteen over twelve stair hall window cuts through the belt course on the rear of the house.

The kitchen wing of 1740 is of Flemish bond and has a water table with a quarter round molded brick.

Almodington is preserved. The original dining room panelling from this house is now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior Excellent

Exterior Excellent

2 black and white 5 by 7 prints 1 black and white contact and

negative 1 color slide 7 PHOTOGRAPH

6. LOCATION MAP (Plon Optional)

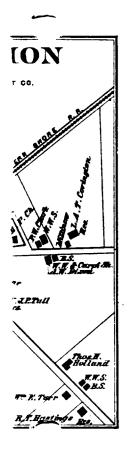
3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
Forman, Henry Chandlee, Early
Manor and Plantation Houses of
Maryland, Privately Printed, 1934
p. 153 (2 photo floor plan)

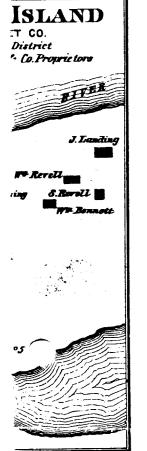
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Paul A. Brinkman Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD February 8, 1967

HABS - 3 photos





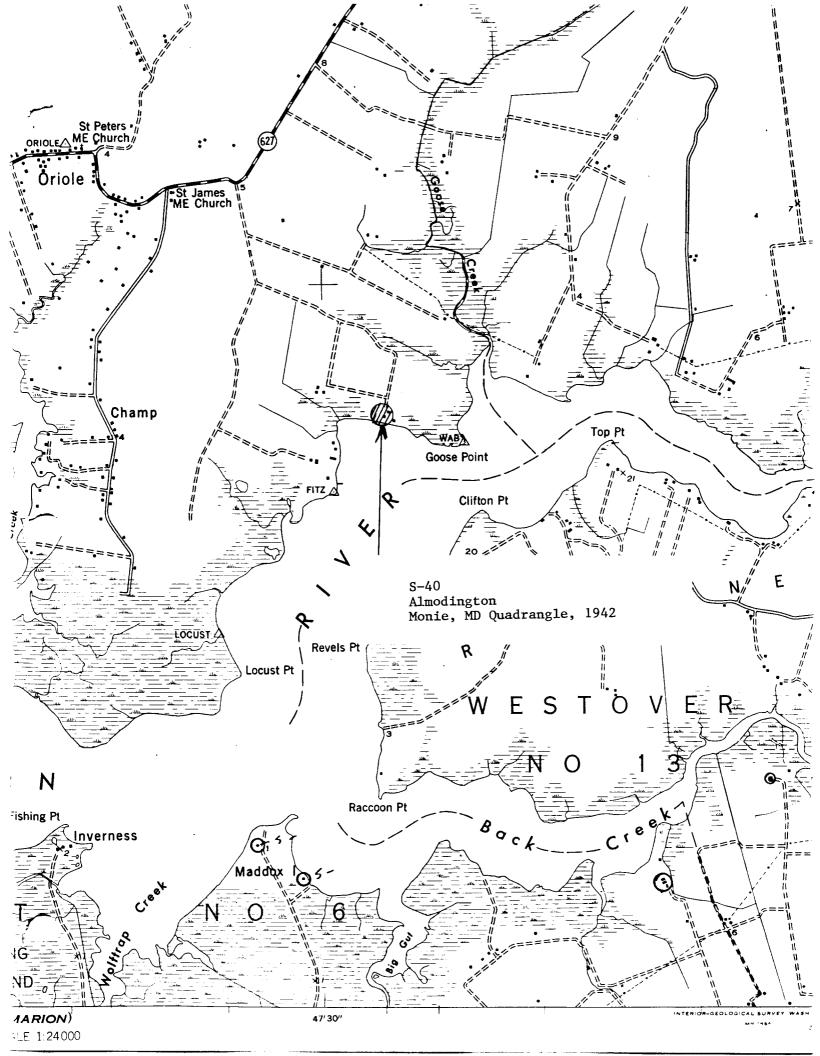
PRINCESS ANNE

Dist, Nº 1 SOMERSET CO.

1877

AG





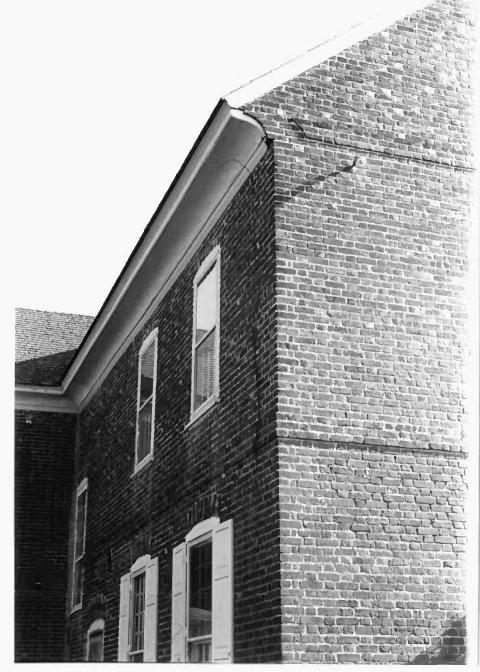


Almodiugton - 5-40

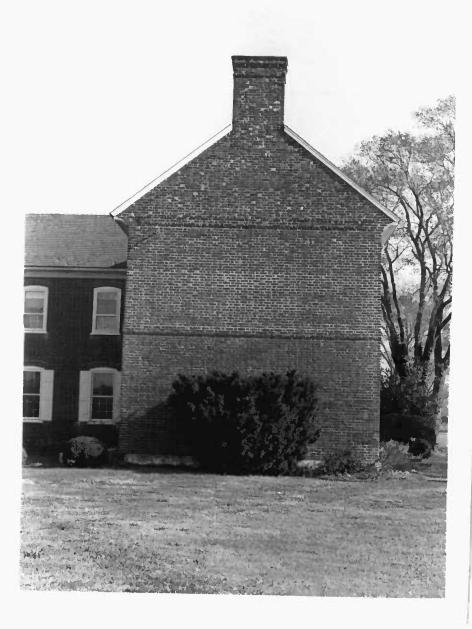
1967



5-40 DINCTON 3248 Oct. 1974



Almodington S-40 Oriole vicinity, Somerset Co., Md. Northwest Corner with Cove Cornice 3/86, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./Md. Historical Trust



ALMODINGTON S-2 Oriole Vicinity, Somerset County

West Elevation 11/85, Paul Touart Photographer Neg/Md. Historical Trust

S-40



almodi, stor 5-40



5-40

DANIEL C. CHURCH

Almodugten Hall Window Detail Somerset



ALMODINGTON

S - 40

Oroile Vicinity, Somerset County Outbuilding/South Elevation 11/85 Paul Touart, Photographer Neg/M.D. Historical Trust



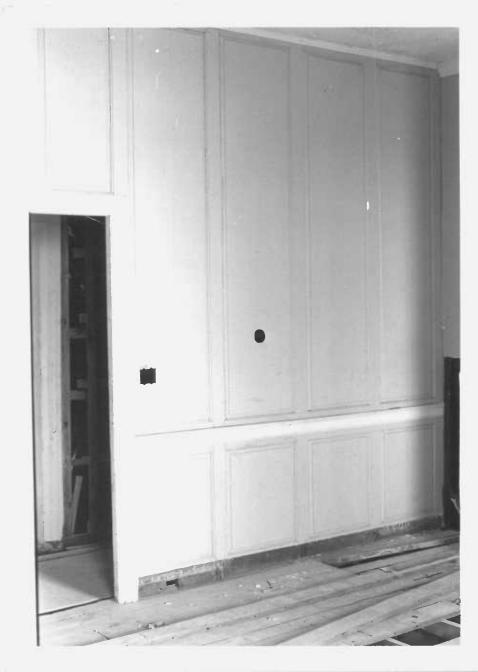
Almodington S-40 Oriole vicinity, Somerset Co., MD. Glazed Brick Decoration, Back Door 4/86, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg./MD. Hist. Trust



ALMODINGTON

S - 40

Oriole Vicinty, Somerset County Dining Room Paneling 11/85 Paul Touart, Photographer Neg/ Md. Historical Trust



ALMODINGTON S-40 Oriole Vicinity, Somerset County Dining Room Paneling 11/85 Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg/ M.D. Historical Trust



S-40



Oriole Vicinity, Somerset County Second Floor Railing 11/85, Paul Touart, Photographer Neg/Md. Historical Trust



ALMODINGTON

Oriole Vicinity, Somerset County
Center Stair
11/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
Neg/ M.D. Historical Trust



S-40

ALMODINGTON
Oriole Vicinity, Somerset County
North Bedroom

11/85 Paul Touart, Photographer Neg/Md. Historical Trust